

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 OPIC-12 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 INT-08

COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 DOTE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

DRC-01 /149 W

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O R 270820Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9931

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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PASS OPIC

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN

SUBJECT: TAW

1. TAW FAILURE CARRY OUT TRUCK DELIVERY COSTING ZAMBIA AND OTHERS MILLIONS AND, ON RECOMMENDATION OF UN ADVISORS, GRZ ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS REQUESTED UN LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN CONNECTION WITH TAW CONTRACT CANCELLATION, ACCORDING TIMES FRONT PAGE LEAD STORY TODAY, MARCH 27.

2. STORY BY PAPER'S NEW BUSINESS EDITOR TREVOR GRUNDY ASSERTS "OVERRIDING FACTOR" INFLUENCING GRZ TO SIGN TAW CONTRACT WAS PROMISE OF DELIVERY IN RECORD TIME. NONE OF 300 TRUCKS BUILT TO SPECIFICATIONS ARRIVED TO SPEED DAR TRAFFIC. SIXTY-TWO TRUCKS DELIVERED FROM WEST AFRICA TAW DEPOT DID NOT MEET SPECIFICATIONS. "GOVERNMENT FORCED INTO HEART-BREAKING AND EXTREMELY COSTLY CONTINGENCY PLANNING OPERATIONS...ZAMBIA WAS FORCED TO DIVERT TRAFFIC FROM

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DAR" BY "RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS WHICH AFFECTED ALL IMPORTS

AT ALL PORTS, DIVERSION OF MORE THAN 25,000 ADDITIONAL TONS A MONTH TO PORT OF LOBITO," AND "THE VERY RECENT EXERCISE TO OPEN TAZARA RAILWAY AS FAR AS MWENZO WHICH IT IS HOPED WILL CARRY MORE THAN 10,000 TONS OF IMPORTS A MONTH." WITHOUT EXTRA HARD WORK OF CHINESE ON RAILWAY "IT IS THOUGHT SITUATION COULD HAVE BORDERED ON DISASTER."

3. THE APPROXIMATELY K1.6 MILLION SO FAR PAID TO TAW "IS RELATIVELY SMALL FIGURE COMPARED TO WHAT TAW'S INABILITY TO SUPPLY ZAMBIA WITH TRUCKS HAS COST THIS COUNTRY AND OTHERS IN EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA." RECENT UK CONFERENCE LINE 15 PERCENT SURCHARGE WILL COST ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE K4.4 MILLION PER MONTH, RWANDA AND BURUNDI K0.6 MILLION, AND TANZANIA K4.4 MILLION. INCREASE IN ZAMBIA AIRFREIGHT FROM EUROPE COSTING K400,000 A MONTH. MANY ZAMBIAN COMPANIES HAVE BEEN FORCED TO CLOSE OR CURTAIL PRODUCTION. DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND COPPER MINES ALSO AFFECTED BY SUPPLY SHORTAGES.

4. STORY CONCLUDES BY NOTING THAT TAW PRESIDENT WOOD NOW IN LUSAKA AND THAT UN ADVISORS RECOMMENDED OWN ORGANIZATION AS BEST BODY TO GIVE LEGAL ADVICE.
NELSON

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Message Attributes

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